

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-21 (cancelled).

Claim 22 (currently amended): An optical plug-in connection comprising:

an optical plug-in connector;

a coupling configured to receive the plug-in connector; and

locking means for locking the plug-in connector in the coupling when the plug-in connector is inserted into the coupling, wherein the locking means are designed to prevent unintentional unlocking when in a locked state, wherein the locking means comprise a flexibly bendable locking arm having a first locking element situated at a free end of the locking arm, and wherein a second locking element situated on the plug-in connector is designed to move back and forth by means of a tool between a first position and a second position, wherein in the first position, the locking arm is designed to be flexibly bent unhindered, and wherein in the second position, the locking arm is hindered from flexible bending by the second locking element.

Claim 23 (currently amended): The plug-in connection as claimed in claim 22, wherein the locking means are designed to only be unlocked by use of ~~a separate~~ the tool when in the locked state.

Claim 24 (currently amended): The plug-in connection as claimed in claim ~~23~~22, ~~wherein the locking means comprise a flexibly bendable locking arm having a first locking element situated at a free end of the locking arm,~~ wherein the locking arm is configured to bend when the plug-in connector is inserted into the coupling to lock the plug-in connector therein, wherein the plug-in connector is designed to be unlocked from the coupling by renewed flexible bending of the locking arm.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The plug-in connection as claimed in claim 24, wherein the locking arm is arranged on the plug-in connector.

Claim 26 (canceled).

Claim 27 (currently amended): The plug-in connection as claimed in claim ~~26~~22, wherein the locking arm extends parallel to and spaced apart from a housing of the plug-in connector, wherein the locking arm is flexibly bent toward the housing of the plug-in connector for locking and unlocking, and wherein the second locking element is arranged between the locking arm and the housing of the plug-in connector.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The plug-in connection as claimed in claim 27, wherein the second locking element is designed to be removed when the locking arm is bent away and outward from the housing of the plug-in connector.

Claim 29 (previously presented): The plug-in connection as claimed in claim 27, wherein the second locking element is displaceable parallel to the locking arm between the first position and the second position.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The plug-in connection as claimed in claim 29, wherein the second locking element is guided in the longitudinal direction by means of a guiding rail and one of a guiding groove and a guiding slot.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The plug-in connection as claimed in claim 28, wherein the second locking element includes one of protuberances and lugs, wherein one of the protuberances and lugs protrudes laterally beyond the locking arm for co-acting with the tool for displacing the second locking element.

Claim 32 (previously presented): The plug-in connection as claimed in claim 28, wherein the coupling is designed as a duplex coupling for a simultaneous insertion of two plug-

in connectors, and wherein the second locking elements of each plug-in connector are designed to be displaced simultaneously by the tool.

Claim 33 (previously presented): The plug-in connection as claimed in claim 27, wherein the second locking element is pivotable between the first position and the second position about an axis perpendicular to the locking arm.

Claim 34 (previously presented): The plug-in connection as claimed in claim 33, wherein the locking arm includes a clearance to partly receive the second locking element when the locking arm bends.

Claim 35 (previously presented): The plug-in connection as claimed in claim 31, wherein the tool includes a forked end.

Claim 36 (previously presented): The plug-in connection as claimed in claim 25, wherein the locking arm is designed to be flexibly bent by a formed-on unlocking lever, wherein the unlocking lever is sized in length such that when the plug-in connector is inserted in the coupling, the unlocking lever can only be actuated from the outside by the tool.

Claim 37 (previously presented): The plug-in connection as claimed in claim 36, wherein the unlocking lever is formed on the locking arm and has a fixed length.

Claim 38 (previously presented): The plug-in connection as claimed in claim 36, wherein the unlocking lever is formed on the locking arm and includes predetermined breaking points for shortening the length of the unlocking lever.

Claim 39 (previously presented): The plug-in connection as claimed in claim 31, wherein the second locking element is constructed of plastic as a solid piece.

Claim 40 (previously presented): The plug-in connection as claimed in claim 31, wherein the second locking element is formed as a bent sheet-metal piece.

Claim 41 (previously presented): The plug-in connection as claimed in claim 40, wherein the second locking element is bent in a V-shape having a spring arm as one leg of the "V" and two parallel supporting arms, between which a guiding slot is arranged, as the other leg of the "V".

Claim 42 (previously presented): The plug-in connection as claimed in claim 41, wherein the second locking element includes two laterally protruding lugs at the vertex of the "V" adapted to co-act with the tool.